

treating of the game species, fifty-two in number, and the other the non-game birds,— one hundred and ninety-four. The latter list contains brief annotations and both vernacular and current technical names are used for all species; the former, prepared originally as an address before the State Fish and Game Protective Association, lacks technical names and is not so uniform in character, the shore birds being listed without annotations while the gallinaceous species are treated at considerable length.

The list forms a reliable summary of the wild bird life of West Virginia, but we trust Mr. Brooks will continue his researches and furnish us with a more comprehensive report, giving the distribution of the species in detail and the actual records of the rarer forms, with a discussion of their economic value. Such a report would be well worthy of publication by the state government and would be a welcome addition to ornithological literature.— W. S.

Bailey's 'Life Zones and Crop Zones of New Mexico.'¹— This report is based upon the field work of the Biological Survey, for a number of years past, conducted mainly by Mr. Bailey himself. The excellent map, which is on a reasonably large scale, presents the life zones of the state in considerable detail while the text discusses the physical characteristics of each and presents lists, not only of the mammals, breeding birds, reptiles and plants, but of the various varieties of vegetables and fruits which thrive there. There is also a comparison of the several mountain ranges of New Mexico and a bibliography. The report will prove of great value to all students of geographical distribution, and ornithologists will look forward with much interest to the report on the birds and mammals which, it is announced in the introduction, will be published later. We are pleased to notice in this and other recent publications of the Biological Survey a return to the possessive form in the case of birds named after persons, thus conforming to the 'A. O. U. Check-List' as well as to popular usage.— W. S.

Todd on New Neotropical Birds.²— Thirty-three new species and subspecies are briefly described by Mr. Todd in the present paper. Most of these are from the Santa Marta region, Colombia; the province del Sara, Bolivia; and the Rio Caura, Venezuela, and they give us some idea of the wealth of neotropical material that is being acquired by the Carnegie Museum. Some of these descriptions are, we regret to say, open to the same criticism that has already been made in these pages in other connections,

¹ North American Fauna. No. 35. Life Zones and Crop Zones of New Mexico. By Vernon Bailey. U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey. Henry W. Henshaw, Chief. Svo. pp. 1-100, 16 half-tone plates, 6 text cuts, and a colored map. Actual date of publication, September 5, 1913.

² Preliminary Diagnoses of Apparently New Birds from Tropical America. By W. E. Clyde Todd. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXVI, pp. 169-174, August 8, 1913.

i. e., they are full enough to answer the actual requirements of publication under our code but are often not full enough to enable anyone to recognize the species without consulting the type specimen. Such diagnoses are frequently more of a hindrance than a help to the advancement of science, and it seems a pity that our American ornithologists, who have set such a high standard in most of their work, cannot take time to adequately describe all of the new forms which they are in such haste to name, or that the institutions which they represent cannot provide immediate means for the publication of adequate descriptions, for we realize that the author is not always to blame. A new genus *Microstilbon* is proposed for *Microstilbon inspiratus*, a Bolivian hummingbird allied to *Chatocercus*.—W. S.

Kirkham's 'North and South.'¹—Mr. Kirkham already well known as a writer on nature, author of 'East and West,' 'In the Open,' etc., compares, in the present volume, the aspect of nature in the Lake Country of New York and in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, attempting, as he puts it, "to reflect the spirit of the North and of the South, as do the birch and the cypress . . . to make you hear in an inner ear the ringing call of the Carolina wren and to become suddenly conscious of the perfume of jasmine; or to hear the cerie song of the upland plover descending from the sky, and again to be dimly aware of water lilies and the lapping of little waves on a summer day." That he has succeeded admirably in his undertaking his readers will, we think, unanimously agree.

Mr. Kirkham evidently possesses an accurate knowledge of the birds, flowers, trees and insects and an ability to treat of them as he finds them; to bring before us not only the characteristics of the species of which he writes but also the more subtle spirit of their environment. This constitutes his interest in nature, and he has little sympathy for the man who never gets beyond the bare facts. He says "you have perhaps kept a record of birds and flowers, and have devoted much time and energy to the matter, but this is the most elementary work. You will graduate someday from bookkeeping unless you aim to remain a bookkeeper all your days. . . . Ornithology, like everything else, will be just as commonplace as the mind that pursues it." He apparently forgets that some people are unable to get beyond the 'bookkeeper' stage, and even in attaining that, they may derive as much pleasure and benefit from the study of nature as the more gifted writers who, like our author, are privileged to soar to greater heights. The two spots of which this volume treats are a summer camp on the shore of Canandaigua Lake, N. Y., and a winter home near Milford, S. C. Besides frequent casual mention of birds there are two chapters that deal entirely with them. 'Birds about the Camp' treating of the northern locality and 'Winter Bird Life' with the southern.

¹ North and South. Notes on the Natural History of a Summer Camp and a Winter Home. By Stanton Davis Kirkham. G. W. Putnam's Sons. New York and London. The Knickerbocker Press, 1913. 8vo. pp. 1-286. \$1.75 net.